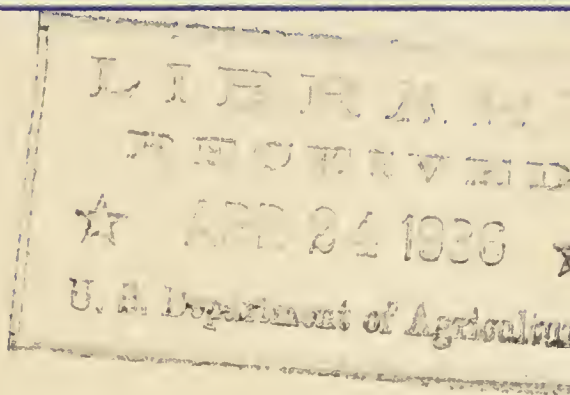


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❖ BLUEBERRIES ❖



Questions
and
Answers



❖ HOUSTON ORCHARDS ❖
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS



BLUEBERRIES



Questions

and

Answers



HOUSTON ORCHARDS

HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS



Cultivated Blueberries

Recently when exhibiting our blueberries at one of the large New England fairs we noticed that the interest shown in this new addition to our small fruits was most marked; that a great number of people wanted much more information on the subject than has been given by short radio talks, or in the one or two small leaflets that have been sent out by out of state growers. Always the same questions were asked by those seeking for light upon this most interesting subject. We wrote down those questions, and in this little booklet we will make the replies cover very thoroughly the subject of blueberry culture as it applies to the ordinary grower of a limited number of plants, or to the commercial grower who wishes to plant on a larger scale. The principles are the same in both cases.

Question 1. *What are cultivated blueberries? Are they wild blueberry bushes that were taken from the woods or swamps, brought into the garden, fertilized and cultivated?*

Ans. Cultivated blueberries are a *development* from the original wild stock. The work of improving the wild blueberry has been going on for the past 35 years. Carried on, as it has been, by leading Horticultural experts in the experimental grounds of the United

❖ BEAUTIFUL PLANTS ❖

States Department of Agriculture, the Cultivated Blueberry may well lay claim to the distinction of governmental approval.

As the methods used in the improvement of fruits and flowers are the secret of those who make it their life work, we cannot give more than a hint to those who would like to know how the work is done.

Planting seed from the finest fruit; cross pollination; selection of choice seedlings; hybridization. This is what we heard as we "listened in." The word "*patience*" was used very often. The result is a decided achievement.

Question 2. Are the plants offered for sale the same as those raised at the experimental stations?

Ans. Yes, all plants that are offered for sale by reputable growers or nurseries are propagated from the varieties released by the original experimenters, in such a manner that they are positively true to name.

Question 3. Can they be grown from seed?

Ans. No. They are not propagated in that manner. We cannot recall any fruit that is grown from seed, with the exception of wild fruit.

Question 4. How high do they grow?

Ans. Blueberry plants will attain a height of 9 or 10 feet, but will give best results if held down to a height of 6 feet.

❖ HEAVY BEARERS ❖

Question 5. Are they shapely? Is there much pruning to do?

Ans. Indeed yes. Blueberry plants are in themselves very shapely, and when given proper care and trimming they make a very ornamental shrub. The amount of pruning will depend upon the variety. Both the Cabot and the Pioneer are inclined to overbear, and the timely removal of all undeveloped or weak branches will prove most beneficial to the plant.

Question 6. Do blueberry plants require spraying?

Ans. So far, during the twelve years that we have grown these plants for their fruit, we have not sprayed them. The blueberry is the cleanest fruit that we have any knowledge of.

Question 7. How much fruit will they bear?

Ans. A well developed blueberry bush should bear about 6 quarts of choice fruit, under favorable conditions. In very dry weather the yield will be somewhat less; in favorable years it has been higher on mature bushes. A good yield per acre is something like 3200 quarts, more in wet seasons, less in dry.



EASY TO GROW



Question 8. What kind of soil is best for blueberries?

Ans. Blueberries like moist soil that is naturally acid and free from rock; neither too sandy nor too heavy with clay. The soil must be loose, not crusty. If it is too heavy, sand will improve it. If lacking in humus, peat moss, or rotted leaf mold will give it body. Any soil that will grow strawberries or a crop of garden vegetables will be exactly right for blueberries.

Question 9. How far apart should they be planted?

Ans. Plant blueberries in rows 8 ft. apart for field planting, with plants 4 ft. apart in the rows. Where only a few plants are to be considered, plant any place in the home grounds where you can find room for them. For clumps on the lawn plant 4 ft. apart. Keep the same distance between them in shrub borders. For hedges or divisions inside your grounds they may be planted 3 ft. apart.

Question 10. When is the best time to plant?

Ans. Spring is the best time to plant almost anything. If fall is more convenient, use that time to plant this most hardy and robust fruit. For fall planting be sure to bring the earth well up around the plant. This will pro-



SIZABLE BERRIES



tect the root system and prevent it from heaving during the winter.

Question 11. What kind of fertilizer gives the best results?

Ans. Up to this time good results have been obtained by the formula given on page 11 of this booklet. Apply only a generous pinch around the plant in the spring. Keep it away from the plant to prevent burning. This is all the fertilizer necessary to keep the soil in good condition. A mulch of oak leaves is excellent if you have only a few plants.

Question 12. How about the flavor, are they as good as the wild berry?

Ans. A great many people consider this new fruit far superior in flavor to the wild berry. Our several varieties all yield large berries, and our pickers cannot decide which of them is the best in flavor. All are firm, very blue, meaty, and have been known to keep without sweating or withering for at least three weeks. This fact should be of interest to commercial growers, as the berries can be shipped great distances without deterioration.

Question 13. Are they a hardy plant?

Ans. Yes. Blueberries are extremely hardy. In our own fields they have withstood a tem-

❖ LONG LIFE ❖

perature of 30 degrees below zero, without being in any way damaged. Not a single plant perished during the cold winter of 1933-1934.

Question 14. How long do they live?

Ans. Blueberry plants are long lived, and barring accidents, will probably outlive us all. One man tells of a bush that he has been picking for over forty years, and it is still a heavy bearer.

* * * * *

When less was known about this most interesting plant, much doubt was cast upon its possibilities. It was thought that only bogs, waste lands, and swamps were suitable for its growth. Hence, the ordinary interested grower was discouraged, and did not plant when he could, and should, have done so. Now we know that blueberries will thrive almost anywhere in our home grounds if treated like other shrubs and bushes, or fruit trees.

A Beautiful Plant

PLANT THEM AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE. In a few years they will be the queens of your home garden.

Grow them for their beauty; grow them for their wonderful crops of fine fruit. Do



CLEAN FRUIT



not consider the first cost. They are a self supporting shrub; the only one that pays its way year after year with a minimum of attention.

So beautiful are these new shrubs all through the year that one wonders how any other show bush can be compared with them. In the spring they are a veritable drift of creamy bloom, which is followed in mid summer by clusters and spikes of great berries of the bluest blue, unmatched for their luscious flavor. Then with the approach of the first frosts, their leaves take on handsome colors of rich carmine reds and coppery golds that last long after all other shrubs have been denuded of their foliage.

Finally, when the garden lies half buried in snow, a clump of blueberry bushes with their pretty red and gold twigs will present a most intriguing patch of misty color just when it is most needed.

Landscape architects will tell you that blueberries have always been more or less useful in landscape work. When they see the new Cultivated Blueberries at fruiting time, and sense their advantages and possibilities their enthusiasm knows no bounds.

Of exceptional interest to them is one variety that shapes itself like a dome. Loaded with fruit its beauty is a revelation. In time this shrub will attain a height of 6 or 7 feet,



A HARDY PLANT



with a dense top. Another variety grows to a height of approximately 8 feet. This one if trimmed back to a height of 6 feet will thicken to a diameter of about 6 feet, and the trimming will encourage a heavier inner crop of fruit, that makes it most valuable as a garden ornament. This is the only variety that grows its fruit on the fine inside twigs. Consult us when your plantings are to be for landscape purposes; we wish to recommend the best varieties for your needs.

To sum up—Cultivated Blueberries are the long awaited answer to the demand for better, bigger, finer blueberries, that can be picked under modern sanitary conditions.

They are the gift supreme of the horticultural scientist to our gardens. Let us accept the gift and enjoy it.

Directions for Planting

Plant in any sunny spot. Plant in rows or in clumps on the lawn. A hedge of blueberries would be an engaging sight.

As a border they would be very fine, or as shrubs about the house.

Caution: Use only plants that are grown in New England; they are best suited to our soil conditions and climate. Plants that are known

❖ A LANDSCAPE PLANT ❖

to do well in more Southerly states do not thrive in our New England soil. We have only the best varieties; these we plant in our own fields and distribute to our customers.

Keep witch grass and other weeds away from your plants. Witch grass harbors white grubs that feed on berry roots, and weeds will absorb the moisture needed by your plants.

Do not use lime on soil intended for blueberries, lime will sweeten the soil and make it unfit for this purpose. Do not use barnyard manure on your plants, any litter of this nature causes blisters or scab, and is best avoided.

Fertilizer Formula

Mix the following together for best results:

25 lbs. Nitrate of Soda

65 lbs. Ground Rock Phosphate, (or Super
Phosphate)

10 lbs. Sulphate of Potash

100 lbs.

Keep left over fertilizer in a tin container.
Mark it, and use it the next year.

❖ A PROFITABLE PLANT ❖

Price List

(On less than 100 plants)

All plants come to you Balled and Burlapped with soil on their roots.

Plants are sold in sets of three, or 25 assorted plants—

3 yr. old, 25 plants or over, each	1.50
2 yr. old, 25 plants or over, each	1.10
2 yr. old B. & B., set of 3	\$3.75
3 yr. old B. & B., set of 3	5.00
Large 7 or 8 yr. bearing plants, each	5.00
Specimen plants (landscape work)	10.00
4 yr. plants in 14" pine boxes for orna- mental display, each	5.00
3 yr. plants boxed	4.00

Terms: 25% with order. Balance on delivery at our nursery. All plants shipped F. O. B. Hanover, Mass.

WHOLESALE: Nurserymen who wish plants for their customers, or commercial growers, please write us for particulars.

HOUSTON ORCHARDS

Blueberry Nursery

HANOVER, MASS.

Retail Prices at which retailing nurseries are to re-sell our Plants. It is suggested that prices be kept at approximately this level.

